

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-19. (Cancelled)
20. (Withdrawn) A method of enhancing proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an extract from a tuber of a *Dioscorea* plant.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the extract is soluble in water and insoluble in an aqueous solution containing 65-90% ethanol between 0°C and 25°C.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.
23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the aqueous solution contains 70-80% ethanol.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the aqueous solution contains 75% ethanol.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the bone marrow cells are CFU-GM, CFU-GEMM, or CFU-BFU-E cells.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of enhancing proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an extract from a tuber of a *Dioscorea* plant and an effective amount of a cytokine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas*.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the extract is soluble in water and insoluble in an aqueous solution containing 65-90% ethanol between 0°C and 25°C.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas*.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the aqueous solution contains 70-80% ethanol.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the system is a cell and the proteolytic fragment is secreted out of the cell.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the aqueous solution contains 75% ethanol.

39-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the bone marrow cells are CFU-GM, CFU-GEMM, or CFU-BFU-E cells.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas*.

44-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) An extract from a tuber of a *Dioscorea* plant, wherein the extract (i) is soluble in both water and an aqueous solution containing 50% ethanol between 0°C and 25°C and (ii) has an activity to enhance the proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells.

47. (New) The extract of claim 46, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.

48. (New) The extract of claim 47, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne.

49. (New) The extract of claim 46, wherein the extract contains compounds insoluble in an aqueous solution containing 75% ethanol.

50. (New) An extract from a tuber of a *Dioscorea* plant, wherein the extract (i) is soluble in water between 0°C and 25°C, (ii) is free of compounds that are both soluble in an aqueous solution containing 50% ethanol and insoluble in an aqueous solution containing 75% ethanol between 0°C and 25°C, and (iii) has an activity to enhance the proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells.

51. (New) The extract of claim 50, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne, *D. alata* L., *D. pseudojaponica*, or *D. alata* L. var. *purpurea* (Roxb.) M. Pouch.

52. (New) The extract of claim 51, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas* Decne.

53. (New) The extract of claim 50, wherein the extract contains compounds that are soluble in an aqueous solution containing 75% ethanol.

54. (New) The extract of claim 53, wherein the compounds are insoluble in an aqueous solution containing 87.5% ethanol.

55. (New) A composition comprising an extract of claim 46 and an active cytokine, wherein the composition has an activity to enhance the proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells.

56. (New) The composition of claim 55, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

57. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas*.

58. (New) A composition comprising an extract of claim 50 and an active cytokine, wherein the composition has an activity to enhance the proliferation of bone marrow or spleen cells

59. (New) The composition of claim 58, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2.

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60. (New) The composition of claim 59, wherein the *Dioscorea* plant is *D. batatas*.